

CHAPTER 25 GENERAL PROVISIONS

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2500 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2500.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to drive, move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on any highway or street, any vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in this chapter or otherwise in violation of the provisions of this chapter.
- 2500.2 The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to fire apparatus or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as provided in this chapter.

2501 WIDTH AND HEIGHT OF VEHICLES

- 2501.1 Except as provided in § § 2501.2 and 2501.3, the total outside width of any vehicle shall not exceed eight feet (8 ft.).
- 2501.2 Buses may have an overall width not to exceed eight feet, six inches (8 ft. 6 in.), if travel is restricted to a route approved by the Director.
- 2501.3 Tractor-trailer combinations may have an overall width not to exceed eight feet, six inches (8 ft 6 in.), if the tractor-trailer combination travels on a route, street, road, or highway specified in § 2511.
- 2501.4 No passenger vehicle shall be operated on any public District highway, street, or road with any load carried on the vehicle extending laterally beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of the vehicle or extending laterally more than six inches (6 in.) beyond the line of the fenders on the right side.

- 2501.5 No vehicle which is higher than thirteen feet, six inches (13 ft. 6 in.), including the height of any load on that vehicle, shall operate on a public District highway, street, or road.
- 2501.6 The intent and purpose of § 2501.5 is to regulate vehicle height only, and nothing in this title shall be construed to require the District government, any railroad, or any private corporation to do the following:
- (a) To provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of regulated vehicles; or
 - (b) To make any changes in or about existing structures now crossing streets, roads, or other public thoroughfares in the District.

2502 LENGTH OF VEHICLES, TRAILERS, COMBINATIONS, AND LOADS

- 2502.1 Except as provided in § 2502.7, no single unit vehicle, including any load on the vehicle, shall have an overall length in excess of forty feet (40 ft.), inclusive of the front and rear bumpers.
- 2502.2 Except as provided in § § 2502.3, 2502.4 and 2502.10, no combination of vehicles, including the length of any load on such combination, shall exceed a total overall length of fifty-five feet (55 ft.), inclusive of the extreme front and rear bumpers of the combination.
- 2502.3 A semi-trailer (single) when operated in combination with a truck-tractor and when operated on a street, road, highway, or route specified in § 2511 shall not be subject to the limitations specified in § § 2502.1 and 2502.2; Provided, that the semi-trailer shall not exceed forty-eight feet (48 ft.) in length.
- 2502.4 A semi-trailer and a trailer (double) where operated in combination with a truck-tractor and when operated on a route specified in § 2511 shall not be subject to the limitations specified in § § 2502.1 and 2502.2; Provided, that each semi-trailer or each trailer operated in this combination shall not exceed twenty-eight feet (28 ft.) in length.
- 2502.5 Except as provided in § 2502.6, no combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than two (2) units, except that four (4) units may be coupled together by the double saddle-mount method.
- 2502.6 A tractor-trailer combination may consist of three (3) units coupled together when operated on a route specified in § 2511.

- 2502.7 A bus, including the length of any load on the vehicle, shall have an overall length not to exceed sixty feet (60 ft.), if travel is restricted to a route approved by the Director.
- 2502.8 The limitations on length of vehicles and loads set forth in this section shall not apply to any load upon a pole-trailer operating in the daytime when transporting poles, pipes, or structural materials which cannot be dismembered, nor to vehicles transporting objects at night when required for emergency repair of public utility or public service facilities.
- 2502.9 No pole, pipe, or other material exceeding eighty feet (80 ft.) in length shall be transported, either in the daytime or at night, unless a permit has first been obtained as provided for in § 2508.
- 2502.10 With respect to night transportation, each vehicle listed under §§ 2502.8 and 2502.9, and the load on that vehicle shall have a sufficient number of clearance markers on both sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.
- 2502.11 Commercial motor vehicles with semi-trailers with a kingpin distance of forty-one feet (41 ft.) or less (measured from the kingpin to the center of the rear axle, if single, or the center of a group of rear axles), shall not be subject to the limitations specified in §§ 2502.1, 2502.2 and 2511.3.

2503 RESTRICTIONS ON HANDLING LOADS

- 2503.1 The load upon any part of a vehicle operated alone, or the load upon any part of the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not extend more than three feet (3 ft.) beyond the foremost part of the vehicle or vehicles; and the load upon any part of any vehicle alone, or the load upon any part of the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not extend more than six feet (6 ft.) beyond the extreme part of the rear of the vehicle or vehicles.
- 2503.2 No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street or highway unless that vehicle is constructed or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle; Provided, that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substance may be sprinkled on the roadway in cleaning or maintaining the roadway.
- 2503.3 The weight of the load carried on any truck, tractor, trailer, or combination of vehicles, shall not exceed the manufacturer's rated load capacity of the truck, tractor, trailer, or combination, and loads carried on such vehicles shall be adequately secured to prevent shifting, toppling, or in any other manner becoming a hazard.

- 2503.4 Any tarpaulin or other covering used to protect the load carried on any vehicle shall be securely fastened to prevent its detachment.
- 2503.5 No vehicle shall be parked unattended or left standing upon the streets of the District, except while actually being loaded or unloaded, unless the tailgate is closed; Provided, that this subsection shall not apply to vehicles so loaded that a portion of the load extends upon and is supported by the tailgate.

2504 TOWING VEHICLES

- 2504.1 Trailer and semi-trailer hitches and couplings shall be of such design and strength values as to conform to the requirements of this title.
- 2504.2 When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby and the drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet (15 ft.) from one vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two (2) vehicles transporting poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.
- 2504.3 Where chain, rope, or cable is used as the connection between the front and rear vehicle, with no rigid coupling, there shall be a driver for both the front and rear cars, except where the rear car is towed by a crane or where the rear car is lashed to the front car.
- 2504.4 When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon the connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square (12 in. <2>).
- 2504.5 Safety chains shall be used on all trailers and trailer combinations when operated on the streets and highways of the District in addition to the hitch bar. The chains shall be connected to the tractor vehicle and the drawn vehicle and be of sufficient strength to hold the trailer on a hill if the hitching bar becomes disconnected.

2505 WHEEL AND AXLE LOADS: GROSS WEIGHTS

- 2505.1 The gross weights imposed upon the highway exerted through the wheels on any one axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty-one thousand pounds (21,000 lbs.).
- 2505.2 Any one axle exceeding eighteen thousand pounds (18,000 lbs.) shall be equipped with four (4) properly inflated conventional-type tires or with two (2)

properly inflated wide-base tires designed specifically for application as a replacement for conventional dual tires and rated equivalent in load carrying capacity.

- 2505.3 For the purposes of this section, an axle load shall be defined as the total load imposed upon the highway through all wheels whose centers are included within two parallel transverse vertical planes not more than forty inches (40 in.) apart.
- 2505.4 A loading error or tolerance of one thousand pounds (1,000 lbs.) is allowable for axle loads, and the same tolerance shall be applied for axle or gross loads permitted by special or annual permits; Provided, that any citation for overweight violation, when the load is in excess of one thousand pounds (1,000 lbs.) tolerance, shall be the total amount between the legal or permitted load and total load. The one thousand pounds (1,000 lbs) tolerance shall not be included in the amount of weight in the violation.
- 2505.5 No group of two (2) or more consecutive axles shall carry a weight exceeding the value(s) given in the following table. However, if the gross weight of a vehicle or vehicle combination exceeds seventy-three thousand pounds (73,000 lbs.), the maximum weight imposed upon the highway exerted through the wheels of any one axle shall not exceed twenty thousand pounds (20,000 lbs.) nor shall a tandem axle exceed thirty-four thousand pounds (34,000 lbs.).

THE DISTANCE IN FEET BETWEEN THE EXTREMES OF ANY GROUP OF TWO OR MORE CONSECUTIVE AXLES	MAXIMUM WEIGHT IN POUNDS FOR ANY TWO OR MORE CONSECUTIVE AXLES					
	2 AXLES	3 AXLES	4 AXLES	5 AXLES	6 AXLES	
4-7	37000					
8	37000	37000				
9	38000	41500				
10	39000	42500				
11	40000	43000				
12	41000	44000	49000			
13	42000	44500	49500			
14	43000	45500	50500			
15		46000	51000			
16		47000	51500	57000		
17		47500	52500	57500		

18	48500	53000	58000	
19	49000	53500	59000	
20	50000	54500	59500	65000
21	50500	55000	60000	65500
22	51500	55500	60500	66000
23	52000	56500	61500	67000
24	53000	57000	62000	67500
25	53500	57500	62500	68000
26	54500	58500	63000	68500
27	55000	59000	64000	69000
28	56000	59500	64500	70000
29	56500	60500	65000	70500
30	57500	61000	65500	71000
31	58000	61500	66500	71500
32	59000	62500	67000	72000
33	59500	63000	67500	73000
34	60500	63500	68000	73500
35	61000	64500	69000	74000
36	62000	65000	69500	74500
37	62500	65500	70000	75000
38	63500	66500	71000	76000
39	64000	67000	71500	76500
40	65000	67500	72000	77000
41		68500	72500	77500
42		69000	73000	78000
43		69500	74000	79000
44		70500	74500	79000
45		71000	75000	79000
46		71500	75500	79000
47		72500	76500	79000
48		73000	77000	79000
49		73500	77500	79000
50		74500	78000	79000
51		75000	79000	79000

2505.6 Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating a truck restriction, no person shall operate the type of truck prohibited on the street, except that the prohibited truck may be operated on the street or portions of the street for the sole purpose of making a delivery or pickup and then only by entering the street at the

intersection nearest to the destination of the truck and proceeding on the street no further than the next intersection after the delivery or pickup has been completed.

2506 INSPECTION OF VEHICLE LOADS

- 2506.1 Any police officer having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the vehicle and load by means of either portable or stationary scales, and may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest public scales.
- 2506.2 Whenever an officer, upon weighing a vehicle and load, determines that the weight is unlawful, the officer may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until such portion of the load is removed as may be necessary to reduce the gross weight of the vehicle to the limit permitted under this chapter. All material so unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at the risk of the owner or operator.

2507 DAMAGE TO STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

- 2507.1 Any person driving any vehicle, object or contrivance upon any street or highway or highway structure shall be liable for all damage which the street or highway or structure may sustain as a result of any illegal operation, driving, or moving of such vehicle, object, or contrivance, or as a result of operating, driving, or moving any vehicle, object, or contrivance weighing in excess of the maximum weight as cited under § 2505.5, but authorized by a special permit issued under § 2508.
- 2507.2 Whenever the driver is not the owner of the vehicle, object, or contrivance, but is operating, driving, or moving the vehicle with the express or implied permission of the owner, the owner and driver shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage.

2508 SPECIAL PERMITS

- 2508.1 The Director, in his or her discretion, upon application in writing and good cause being shown, may issue a special permit in writing authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load, or both, exceeding the maximum size or weight specified in this chapter.
- 2508.2 The application for a permit shall specifically describe the vehicle or vehicles and load to be operated or moved, the particular streets or highways for which a

permit to operate is requested, and whether the permit is requested for a single trip or continuous operation.

- 2508.3 A special permit issued under this section by the Director may establish seasonal or other limitations within which the vehicle(s) described may be operated on the streets or highways indicated, or otherwise to limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or vehicles when necessary to avoid undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or other structures.
- 2508.4 The Director may require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to compensate for any injury to any roadway or road structure.
- 2508.5 Each permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer.
- 2508.6 No person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of the special permit.

2509 TUNNEL RESTRICTIONS

- 2509.1 No operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or other cargo-carrying body, whether loaded or empty, which is required to display markings or placards in accordance with regulations of the Department of Public Works or rules of the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board established by DOT Order #1100.11, July 27, 1967 (49 C.F.R. 170.1) shall enter any tunnel or any access ramp to a tunnel listed in § 2509.6.
- 2509.2 Any Metropolitan Police officer is authorized to require the operator of any vehicle, trailer, or cargo-carrying body referred to in this section to stop prior to entering any tunnel or any access ramp to a tunnel listed in § 2509.6, and to require the operator to proceed by a route which does not lead to the tunnel.
- 2509.3 No operator of any tank vehicle or tank trailer used for the transportation of any flammable liquid or any hazardous material, regardless of the quantity being transported, or whether loaded or empty, shall enter any tunnel or any access ramp to a tunnel listed in § 2509.6, nor shall an operator of any empty tank vehicle containing any residue, cutback tar, cement, or any other substance thinned with a flammable liquid enter any tunnel or any access ramp to a tunnel listed in § 2509.6.
- 2509.4 A new tank vehicle or tank trailer which has never been used for the transportation of a flammable liquid or a hazardous material may be permitted through a tunnel listed in § 2509.6; Provided, that the vehicle shall be accompanied by an invoice, or other shipping paper, stating that the tank vehicle or tank trailer has never been so used.

2509.5 For the purposes of this section, the term “hazardous material,” means any material included in the term “explosives and other dangerous articles,” as used in Title 18, *United States Code*, § § 831-835.

2509.6 Vehicles in the categories described in this section are prohibited from entering the following tunnels or any access ramp to these tunnels:

- (a) The I-95 freeway tunnel from the south portal, which is south of Independence Avenue, to the most northerly portal at K Street; and
- (b) The Ninth Street Expressway tunnel from the north portal at Madison Drive to the south portal, which is south of Independence Avenue.

2510 BRIDGE RESTRICTIONS

2510.1 The gross weight permitted on bridges in the District of Columbia shall be the maximum axle weight allowed in § 2505 or the gross weight posted on a particular bridge, whichever is less.

2510.2 No vehicle which exceeds the maximum weight restriction set forth in § 2505, including the load being carried by the vehicle, shall cross any bridge in the District of Columbia without the written permission of the Director.

2511 SPECIFIED ROUTES

2511.1 For the purposes of this section, the term “I-695” means that highway that is between I-295 in the vicinity of 11th and L Streets, S.E. and I-395 in the vicinity of 2nd and E street, S.W.

2511.2 A vehicle, in accordance with the provisions and exemptions provided for in § 2501.3, 2502.3, 2502.4, and 2502.6, may operate on the following streets, roads, and highways:

- (a) I-295 from the District of Columbia-Maryland line to the Interchange with I-695 in the vicinity of 11th and L Streets, S.E.;
- (b) I-695 from the interchange with I-295 in the vicinity of 11th and L Streets, S.E., to the interchange with I-395 in the vicinity of 2nd and E Streets, S.W.;
- (c) I-395 from the Virginia-D.C. line to the interchange with I-695 in the vicinity of 2nd and E Streets, S.W.;

- (d) Anacostia Freeway from the 11th Street Bridge (I-295) to East Capitol Street; or
- (e) Kenilworth Avenue, N.E. from East Capitol Street to the D.C.-Maryland line.

2511.3 No vehicle covered by the provisions of § § 2501.3, 2502.3, 2502.4, and 2502.6 shall be operated on any other street, highway, or road, which is not listed in § 2511.2 unless the vehicle is operated in accordance with the conditions and requirements of a special permit issued by the Director pursuant to § 2508.

2511.4 Procedures for approval or denial of special permits issued under § 2511.3 shall be carried out in the following manner:

- (a) An analysis of the proposed access routes will be made by application of vehicle templates to plans of the routes;
- (b) Approval of access for these vehicles on any individual route applies to all vehicles of the same type regardless of ownership;
- (c) Denial of access to terminals and services will be only on the basis of safety and engineering analysis of the access route;
- (d) A request for access will be automatically approved if the request is not acted upon by the Director within ninety (90) days of receipt of the application; and
- (e) Denial of access for any one hundred two inch wide (102 in./w.) vehicles will be only on the basis of the characteristics of specific routes. in particular significant deficiencies in lane width.

2512 HAULING PERMIT FEES FOR CERTAIN MULTI-AXLE MOTOR VEHICLES

2512.1 The following fees listed in this section shall apply to hauling permit fees for certain multi-axle motor vehicles:

In the case of a single unit motor vehicle which has three (3) or more axles and is designed to unload itself and which is operated in the District under an annual hauling permit of the District, the fee for the permit shall be as follows:

If a motor vehicle is first placed in service after	\$
July 1970	917.00

If a motor vehicle is in service on or before July 1, 1970, and operated at a gross weight:

In excess of the weight permitted under normal	\$
	512.00

operation under applicable regulations of the Mayor of
the District of Columbia but less than 50,000 lbs., a
fee of

Of 50,000 lbs. or more but less than 55,000 lbs., a	\$
fee of	647.00

Of 55,000 lbs. or more but less than 60,000 lbs., a	\$
fee of	782.00

Of 60,000 lbs., or more but not to exceed 65,000 lbs.,	\$
a fee of	917.00